

ABSTRACT

The invention provides for the use of Fibroblast Growth Factor-18 (FGF-18) to improve learning and memory. The invention also relates to methods of measuring expression levels of FGF-18 in the central nervous system, and the use of such measurements for diagnostic purposes. The invention is expected to be useful in the areas of associative learning, consolidated memory, drug development and analysis, and in the treatment of certain diseases associated with impaired hippocampal function such as dementia due to Alzheimer's Disease.